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January 25, 2005

V CORPS UNITS TAKE PART IN FOURTH READINESS EXERCISE AIMED AT SECURING IRAQI ELECTIONS

1st Infantry Division Public Affairs Office release

TIKRIT, Iraq — With an eye to the upcoming Iraqi national elections, V Corps Soldiers have been deeply engaged in exercises aimed at ensuring that voters can go to the polls safely.

Members of the civil affairs section of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the corps' 1st Infantry Division recently joined with the staffs of the Joint Coordination Centers in Salah Ad Din Province, the Provincial Joint Coordination Center and other Iraqi agencies recently for their fourth readiness exercise at the PJCC here.

The local JCCs in the cities of Ash Sharqat, Bayji, Tikrit, Ad Dawr, Samarra, Balad, Ad Dujayl, Ad Duliya and Tuz participated in the three-day event. In addition, the Iraqi Police Service; Iraqi Army; Iraqi Army bomb disposal units; Force Protection Services; International Election Commission for Iraq; Iraqi Ministry of Health, and various emergency services agencies, also took part.

Master Sgt. Terry L. McKinney, the 2nd BCT's PJCC liaison officer, said this fourth readiness exercise was important because it helped to prepare the provincial and city governments for any emergency situation that might arise during the elections.

"Additionally, it allowed us to stress all our forms of communications to ensure that there are multiple ways that we can communicate from the province to the Iraqi national headquarters and also to the local cities in the province," McKinney noted.

Three goals were achieved by holding the readiness exercise, he said.

Communications between the provincial and local JCCs were vastly improved; response time for emergency services increased, and Iraqi security forces proved they are ready to respond to threats from anti-Iraqi forces and secure election sites throughout the province.

Although this was the fourth exercise, the PJCC liaison officer said it was significant because the event focused on "synchronizing all the efforts from governmental and security elements in the province to communicate and work together."

